

invited to a "squirrel dinner" of large, grey wharf rats found along the Appomattox river."

THE PEACE COMMISSION.

January, 1865. The left of the Fifty-sixth North Carolina is resting on the City Point Railroad. In the south side of the deep cut is excavated regimental headquarters, protected by bracings and supports of heavy timber. The Forty-ninth and Twenty-fifth to our right; the Thirty-fifth and Twenty-fourth to our left. Here the Peace Commissioners, authorized by Congress and appointed by Mr. Davis, crossed the lines, going out to meet Mr. Lincoln and Mr. Seward, of his Cabinet, at Fortress Monroe. The appointees were Messrs. A. H. Stephens, Vice-President Confederate States; R. M. T. Hunter, of Virginia, formerly United States Senator, now a Confederate States Senator; and J. A. Campbell, of Alabama, formerly Associate Justice Supreme Court, United States, now Assistant Secretary of War. The feeling in the army that all had been done, which our resources and human valor could accomplish, was manifested by the prolonged cheers which greeted their departure as the news ran along the line. North Carolina had a right to be heard from in this matter. The first States had seceded without awaiting an overt act towards the destruction of slavery after Mr. Lincoln's election; but after a thorough canvass, with the Chief Executive and almost all the State press in favor of it, she had in February, 1861, voted down the proposition to call a State Convention with authority to consider a question that had not yet arisen. But with the opening of the war at Fort Sumpter 12 April, 1861, and the call of Mr. Lincoln for a quota of troops, her volunteer companies, of which there were a number throughout the towns, immediately reported themselves to Governor Ellis, who had replied to the Federal Government, substantially: "You cannot get a man from North Carolina." The State Convention in afterwards unanimously withdrawing from the Union, had acted deliberately, and though she swore to her own hurt, yet to the end she changed not. Casting about 113,000 votes, she has contributed over 125,000 troops, and her dead heroes slain in battle